

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00453 271006Z

17

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-10

L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 DODE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /079 W

----- 130856

O P 270912Z NOV 74

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0675

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0453

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS ON
NOVEMBER 26, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE NOVEMBER 26 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE BELGIAN REP, FRG REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, POLISH REP STRULAK, AND GDR REP OESER. SOVIET REP KHLESTOV PRESENTED IN WRITING A PROPOSAL TO FREEZE ALL MANPOWER IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN THEIR PRELIMINARY RESPONSE, ALLIED REPS SAID THIS PROPOSAL WAS IMPRACTICAL BECAUSE THERE WAS NO EAST-WEST AGREEMENT ON THE NUMERICAL FORCE TOTALS OF EITHER SIDE AND UNDESIRABLE BECAUSE IT WOULD NONETHELESS CONTRACTUALIZE THE PRESENT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00453 271006Z

EAST-WEST FORCE RELATIONSHIP AND CREATE NATIONAL

CEILINGS ON THE FORCES OF INDIVIDUAL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. ALLIED REPS SAID THE WEST HAD A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO THIS EASTERN PROPOSAL, AGREEMENT THAT THE US AND SOVIET UNION SHOULD MAKE SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS AND COMMIT THEMSELVES TO PARITY IN GROUND FORCES TOGETHER WITH A NO INCREASE COMMITMENT ON THE GROUND FORCE MANPOWER OF THE REMAINING DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, ALLIED REPS PROPOSED A SEPARATE NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT ON ALLIED AIR FORCE MANPOWER, STATING THAT WESTERN PROPOSALS NOW COVERED ALL MANPOWER IN THE AREA, BUT COMBINED THIS WITH A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION PROGRAM.

2. KHLESTOV AS HOST MADE THE FIRST PRESENTATION. HE SAID THE EAST HAD PUT FORWARD A WORKABLE REDUCTION PROGRAM AT THE OUTSET OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THE WEST HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT IT AS BASIS OF NEGOTIATION. THE EAST COULD NOT ACCEPT THE WEST'S OVERALL REDUCTION PROPOSALS AS BASIS OF NEGOTIATION BECAUSE THESE PROPOSALS VIOLATED THE PRINCIPLES OF MUTUALITY OF REDUCTIONS AND NO UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGE FOR ANY PARTICIPANT. EAST HAD THEN PUT FORWARD INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL IN EFFORT TO MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD. THE WEST HAD REFUSED THIS PROPOSAL ALSO. THESE PROPOSALS NONETHELESS WERE STILL VALID. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THE CAPACITY OF PARTICIPANTS TO COME TO AGREEMENT ON THE SUBJECT MATTER, TO STOP THE ARMS RACE IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND TO CREATE CONFIDENCE NECESSARY FOR AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS, EAST WISHED TO PROPOSE THAT THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS UNDERTAKE A COMMITMENT NOT TO INCREASE THEIR MILITARY MANPOWER IN CENTRAL EUROPE FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. KHLESTOV TABLED WRITTEN TEXT OF A DRAFT COMMITMENT OF WHICH THE UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION PREPARED BY SOVIETS READS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM, (FOLLOWED BY ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ALL REMAINING DIRECT PARTICIPANTS) WHICH ARE PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON MUTUAL REDUCTION OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS IN POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS ON SUCH A REDUCTION, GUIDED BY A
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00453 271006Z

DESIRE TO SUPPLEMENT POLITICAL DETENTE IN EUROPE WITH MEASURES OF MILITARY DETENTE AND THUS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE STABLE RELATIONSHIP AND TO THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT, DESIRING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT AT THE NEGOTIATIONS OF SPECIFIC RESULTS AND TO REFRAIN FROM ACTIONS WHICH MAY HAMPER THIS, DECLARE THAT THEY HEREBY UNDERTAKE NOT TO INCREASE THEIR FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE FOR THE DURATION

OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. END TEXT.

4. IN DISCUSSION, KHLESTOV STATED THAT THE WORDS "THEIR FORCES" IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE PROPOSAL REFERRED SOLELY TO MANPOWER AND THAT THE WARSAW PACT WAS SUGGESTING A FREEZE ONLY IN THE MANPOWER OF DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS; ARMAMENTS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE COVERED.

5. FOLLOWING A BRIEF SIDE CONSULTATION AMONG ALLIED REPS, US REP SAID THAT THE PRELIMINARY VIEW OF THE ALLIED REPS ON THIS PROPOSAL WAS THAT IT WAS NOT A PROPOSAL FOR EQUITABLE AND SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS AIMED AT CORRECTING THE EXISTING DISPARITY IN GROUND FORCES IN THE AREA AND MOVING TOWARDS GROUND FORCE PARITY. INSTEAD, THE PROPOSAL WOULD CONTRACTUALIZE THE PRESENT INEQUITABLE EAST-WEST GROUND FORCE RELATIONSHIP AND CREATE A NEGATIVE PRECEDENT FOR SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENTS ON FORCE REDUCTIONS. MOREOVER, THE PROPOSAL WAS NOT WORKABLE BECAUSE THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT ON THE FORCE LEVELS IN THE AREA; THE EAST HAD CHALLENGED WESTERN TOTALS AND HAD AT THE SAME TIME REFUSED TO EXCHANGE DATA IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT AGREED TOTALS.

6. FRG REP SAID THAT THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF EASTERN REFUSAL TO EXCHANGE DATA WERE HIGHLIGHTED BY THIS PROPOSAL. FRG REP THEN PRESENTED WESTERN PROPOSAL FOR NO INCREASE ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER OF DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, POINTING OUT THAT WITH THIS STEP ALLIES HAD MOVED TO COVER ALL MANPOWER IN THE AREA WITH THE AGREED EXCEPTION OF THE NAVY AND THAT THE ALLIED PROPOSAL TO COMBINE NO INCREASE COMMITMENTS WITH PHASE I REDUCTIONS MOVING TOWARDS PARITY WAS A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL OF ACROSS-THE-BOARD FORCE FREEZE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 MBFR V 00453 271006Z

7. IN RESPONSE, KHLESTOV CLAIMED THAT COMMITMENTS NOT TO TAKE ACTIONS WHICH COULD MAKE NEGOTIATIONS MORE DIFFICULT WERE A NORMAL PART OF INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATION, THAT A FREEZE AGREEMENT WOULD BE REPLACED BY A FORCE REDUCTION AGREEMENT AS SOON AS LATTER WAS AGREED ON, AND THAT A FREEZE AGREEMENT NEED NOT CREATE ANY PRECEDENT FOR FORCE REDUCTION AGREEMENTS. BELGIAN REP SAID THE EASTERN PROPOSAL POINTED UP NEED FOR AGREEMENT ON FORCE TOTALS THROUGH EXCHANGE OF DATA. KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY URGED ALLIED REPS TO GIVE THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL FURTHER CONSIDERATION DESPITE THEIR INITIAL NEGATIVE REACTION.

8. IT WAS AGREED TO HOLD THE NEXT SESSION ON DECEMBER 3.
END SUMMARY.

REMAINDER OF REPORT FOLLOWS SEPTEL.RESOR

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MBFR, NEGOTIATIONS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MBFRV00453
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740344-0313
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974118/aaaaaggk.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS ON NOVEMBER 26, 1974
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005